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LC/MAEC/381

Report on the progress in the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey, Republic of Niger, 12-14 April 1988, the following activities for the pre-implementation phase of the Centre were scheduled for 1988/1989.

i) the finalization of the Centre's programme document by June 1988.

ii) the distribution of the programme document to donors and interested organizations - as of June 1988.

iii) issuance of vacancy notice for the post of Director-General of the Centre - June 1988

iv) donors meeting - October 1988.

v) drawing up of a budget for the Centre - October 1988.

vi) second meeting of the Board of Governors - November 1988.

vii) appointment of the Director-General - November 1988.

viii) assumption of duty by the Director-General, signature of the host country agreement and taking over of the Centre's infrastructure and other facilities by the Director General - January 1989.

ix) recruitment of staff, development of work programme and other operational activities for the Centre - as of January 1989.

x) installation of technical facilities, connection of GTS, recention, transmission and DP facilities as defined in the Programme Document by consultants as well as parallel arrangements for the improvement and strengthening of national and relevant regional capabilities - first half 1989.

xi) development of a minimum set of products and testing their distribution.

2. By its resolution 651(XXIII) of 18 April 1988 on Resources for the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the ECA Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of WMO, to continue to carry out all the necessary activities to make the newly established Centre operational.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

3. Since the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and adoption of resolution 651(XXIII) on the resources or making the Centre operational by the ECA Conference of Ministers, ECA and WMO have continued to work very closely in mobilizing member States and the international community to support the Centre financially and otherwise.

4. In implementing the recommendations of the Board and resolution 651(XXIII), the time-table as suggested by the Board could be strictly kept due to resources constraints and the difficulty in recruiting consultants to work on the programme document for the Centre. However, the following activities were carried out:

A. Finalizing the draft of ACMAD Programme Document including the estimation of the resource requirements and the modalities for the mobilization of resources from member States as well as the job description and recruitment of the Director-General

5. The final draft of the Programme Document is ready for submission to the next meeting of the Board of Governors for approval. A copy has been made available to participants for information.

B. Economic Benefits of ACMAD

6. At the first meeting with the donors at the technical level in February 1988, the need for a statement as to the economic benefits of ACMAD were expressed by the representatives of the funding agencies. This was conveyed to the Board of Governors which also saw the need for this as it would encourage investment in the Centre, both from member States and, particularly, the donors and funding agencies.

7. With the assistance of UNDP, consultants were hired to put together a first draft which would then be reviewed by ECA, WMO and FAO. The general impression of the consultant's report, after its first review by ECA and WMO, was that it did not bring out clearly the economic benefits of the Centre. Comments on the document are being received from the collaborating agencies for revising the document in time for the donors meeting and the meeting of the Board of Governors.

i) Resources for making ACMAD operational

8. The estimates for the resource needs of ACMAD during the initial phase, upto 1993 are shown in the Programme Document. However, in view of the fact that there were no intermediate salary scales between those proposed at the first Board meeting and UN scales, that are in force in any other ECA-sponsored institution, those already discussed at the last meeting were adopted and used in advertising the post of Director-General for the Centre.

9. As regards the modalities for mobilizing resources from member States for ACMAD it was decided that a letter should be written to member States, requesting them to implement resolution 651(XXIII) on the "Resources for ACMAD". This letter was sent to member States. Immediate reaction on the part of member States is very important as this will influence:

a) the recruitment of the Director General

b) to demonstrate to potential donors the commitment of member States to the establishment of the Centre.

10. UNDP had agreed in principle, to extend the funding of the preparatory assistance project to cover the servicing of the donors meeting and the second meeting of the Board of Governors excepting the participation of member States, as was the case with the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the Centre. Member States will have to bear the cost of their participation in the Centre, such as the attendance of meetings of its legislative organs.

ii) Job description and recruitment of the Director General

11. The job description for the Director General of the Centre was finalized and post advertised, using the scales in the Staff Rules and Regulation of ACMAD, as approved at the last Board of Governors meeting the post be advertised with immediate effect. The deadline for receiving applications was suggested as 15 February 1989. Shortlisting will be done immediately thereafter and presented to a selection committee to be chosen by the Board from among its members. It was further suggested that members with applicants from their countries should not be members of the selection committee.

iii) Follow-up on the ratification of the Constitution of ACMAD

12. Since the last meeting of the Conference of Ministers in April 1988, only three countries had either ratified or indicated that they were in the process of doing so. A full list of the countries that have ratified ACMAD's constitution including those which have indicated that they are in the course of doing so, is attached as Annex II.

13. Letters were sent to member States about resources for ACMAD and also requesting them to implement ECA resolution 651(XXIII) by ratifying the constitution. if they had not yet done so, and paying their contributions.

14. It is recommended that the matter be fully discussed by the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment scheduled at its February 1989 meeting and at the WMO technical meeting, also scheduled for February 1989.

C. Preparations for the second meeting of the Board of Governors

15. The suggestion is that the second meeting of the Board should be in Addis Ababa, 23-25 March 1989, just before the meetings of the Technical Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) so that the report could then be submitted to TEPCOW for consideration and submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers, in April, 1989.

D. Preparations for the donors meetings

16. A consultative meeting was held, at the technical level, with potential donors in Geneva on 28 November 1988.

17. The meeting expressed satisfaction at the commendable preparatory work carried out in defining the objectives, outputs, activities, structure and the resources required for the establishment of the Centre. It noted with satisfaction, the commitment of the African Governments as well as that of the Government of Niger, which has spared no effort in ensuring the early implementation of the Centre.

18. The meeting also noted that UNDP had funded the preparatory work while ECA and WMO had fully collaborated with FAO, UNEP and the World Bank in the preparation of the Programme Document for the Centre. It further noted that some of the donors had expressed strong interest in support of ACMAD and were considering how best to contribute in making it operational. It appealed to all donors for their support. The meeting further recommended that:

a) the Programme Document be updated by:

   i) incorporating the contributions of FAO and UNEP on their involvement with ACMAD;

   ii) including the statement of the World Bank on the relationship between ACMAD and ICOMHA;

   iii) assigning priorities to the proposed activities of ACMAD and classifying the outputs according to the levels of application, namely, national, sub-regional or regional.

b) the Economic and Social Benefits Document be strengthened;

c) a working agreement between ACMAD and CILSS be drafted in consultation with CILSS, ECA and WMO; this should serve as a model for other institutions with which ACMAD has working relations;

d) the Board of Governors of ACMAD be approached regarding the joint management of the project by member States

e) the donors (pledging) conference be convened following the finalization of the Programme and Benefits documents and further consultations with potential donors regarding their commitment to support the project.

III. CONCLUSION

19. The establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development has been very warmly received by the international community concerned with meteorology, agro meteorology, hydro-meteorology and other related disciplines. Donors and funding institutions have also shown a great deal of interest in providing financial assistance for making the Centre operational.

20. This interest at the international level can only be sustained if African member States participate actively in the operations of the Centre. The most important way of demonstrating this participation is by ratifying the constitution of the Centre and paying their contributions to it. Participants to the Joint Committee meeting should encourage their governments to do so. They should also inform suitable candidates about the vacancy notice annexed to this report.

ANNEX "I" VACANCY NOTICE

AFRICAN CENTRE OF METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

(A C M A D)

POST

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Director-General, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

ACMAD is an ECA-sponsored institution established by its Conference of Ministers in 1987 to collect meteorological data, process and analyse it, make available information to users for application to agricultural production, water resources management and other human activities that depend on the weather and climate.

GRADE:	D1 (ACMAD STAFF GRADE)
DUTY STATION:	Niamey, Republic of Niger
COMMENCEMENT OF DUTY:	1 July 1989
DURATION	Normal term of four years
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

DUTIES

The Director-General will be responsible for the overall management of the ACMAD Centre. He will have under his responsibility the team of experts working in the Centre.

Under the direction of the Board of Governors, the Director-General of the Centre will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Centre. He will, in particular, carry out the following duties as specified in Article 7 of the Constitution of the Centre. The Director-General shall be the chief executive of the Centre. In this capacity, he shall have the responsibility for:

a) planning, organization and direction of the technical activities scientific research, training, advisory services and other activities of the Centre

b) organization and administration of the Centre;

c) submission for consideration to the Board of Governors, the work programme of the Centre

d) carrying out the activities of the Centre in accordance with the approved work programme and corresponding budget of the Centre;

e) submission for the approval of the Board of Governors, annual reports on the activities and the accounts of the Centre;

f) selection and appointment of staff other than those provided in sub-paragraph (k) of paragraph 7 of Article 5 of the Constitution of ACMAD, subject to the staff and administrative rules and regulations of the Centre and specific directives given by the Board of Governors;

g) establishment and maintenance of such contacts with governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other organizations or institutions as may be necessary or desirable for the achievement of the objectives of the Centre; and

h) undertaking such other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Board of Governors.

QUALIFICATIONS

a) Have at least an M.Sc degree in meteorology and/or in other related discipline such as agro-meteorology and hydro-meteorology.

b) Have at least ten years experience in the management of technical and administrative functions within a national service, a major regional operation or within the framework of an international institution, all of scientific nature;

c) Be familiar with operational and research activities in meteorology, meteorological and hydrological services and have demonstrated the ability for handling scientific programme of a multi-disciplinary nature;

d) Have proven scientific ability as could be evidenced by published works in recognized scientific journals and demonstrate a broad understanding of atmospheric sciences.

LANGUAGES

An excellent knowledge of English or French and a working knowledge of the other.

ANNUAL SALARY

Initial net salary of US$26,530, tax free.

POST ADJUSTMENT

As stipulated in the Staff Rules and Regulations of the Centre.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Spouse, US$200 per year. Children, US$150 per year, per child under 18 years of age and for a maximum of 6 children.

EDUCATION GRANT

Re-imbursal of total expenses upto a maximum of US$2,500 per year and per child, upto 6 children.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE

A monthly housing allowance of US$1,250 subject to Article 55 of the Staff Rules and Regulations.

INSTALLATION GRANT

As provided in the Staff Rules and Regulations of the Centre.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications should be addressed to:

The Chairman,
Board of Governors of ACMAD
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A copy should be sent to:

The Secretary-General
WMO
Case Postale No. 5
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Applications should reach the Chairman of the Board of Governors 1st March 1989.

For more information contact either:

The Executive Secretary
ECA
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Secretary-General
WMO
Case Postale No. 5
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland.

ANNEX II

List of countries that have ratified the constitution of ACMAD or indicated that they are in the process of doing so

	Country	Status	Dates
1.	Algeria	Member of Board of Governors - nominated Board member	13 February 1988
2.	Burundi	Member of the Board of Governors - nominated Board member	7 January 1988
3.	Cameroon	Accepted to be Board member of Board of Governors	
4.	Chad	Sent an observer to the inaugural meeting of the Board	
5.	Congo	Accepted to be member of the Board of Governors	
6.	Egypt	Accepted to be member of the Board of Governors	
7.	Ethiopia	Ratified	2 January 1987
8.	Gambia	Sent an observer to the inaugural meeting of the Board	
9.	Kenya	Accepted to be member of the Board of Governors and nominated member	
10.	Madagascar	Accepted to be member of the Board of Governors and nominated member	
11.	Malawi	Notified they are working on it	12 June 1988
12.	Mali	Sent an observer to the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors	

ANNEX II
(contd.)

13.	Niger	Ratified	7 March 1988
14.	Nigeria	Ratified	22 March 1988
15.	Senegal	Accepted to be member of the Board	23 December 1987
16.	Tanzania	Notified that they are studying the constitution for ratification	
17.	Togo	Notified that they are studying the constitution for ratification	10 February 1988
18.	Tunisia	Ratified	12 April 1988